

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA BARNARD—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-
SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman: Sylvia Barnard, of Santa Maria, California.

After facing incredible challenges in her early life, Sylvia has risen to not only empower herself, but other women facing similar difficulties in our community. Once a single mother on welfare at nineteen years old, Sylvia decided that pursuing a higher education was the best way to ensure a better life for her and her daughter and went on to get her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Wanting to help other single mothers, Sylvia used her education from UCSB to write a book titled "One Mother to Another." Her book focuses on the importance of determination, resilience, and the positive impact of higher education.

Currently, she passionately dedicates herself to leading The Good Samaritan Shelter, which gives support to the homeless and other vulnerable populations, serving almost 2,000 people per year. The agency also helps veterans, parolees, mothers fighting addictions, and those in rehabilitation. As the Executive Director, Sylvia has grown the small agency from a shelter that had only eight rooms to one that now has over fifteen rooms for people to escape living on the street.

Sylvia began working at the Great Samaritan Shelter over sixteen years ago as a grant writer, and about ten years ago took the helm of the organization. Under the helm of her leadership, the shelter is now the largest homeless shelter provider for the Santa Maria area.

She has gone above and beyond the call of duty and is a force of light and positivity for vulnerable communities in Santa Maria. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Sylvia Barnard, for her incredible service to her community.

HONORING MS. LEONA EGELAND
RICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leona Egeland Rice

upon her retirement after over four decades of public service and leadership in California. Ms. Rice has served our state as a teacher, an elected official, and an advocate for quality healthcare.

A native of Tucson, Arizona, Ms. Egeland Rice came to California to earn a master's degree in education at San Jose State University. She stayed in California as she began her family and her career as a science teacher. While political issues always interested her, Ms. Egeland Rice first became personally involved in the public sphere through her instrumental role in the campaign to build a new sewage treatment plan to prevent ocean pollution.

After the success of her first community organizing experience, Ms. Egeland Rice found a new passion for local involvement. She worked with the Santa Clara County Supervisor's office to ensure women were appointed to boards and commissions in the county. In 1974, she launched her first campaign for the California State Assembly and won with over 57 percent of the vote. When she took office, only one other woman served in the State Assembly. Ms. Egeland Rice later led the charge to change members' title from "Assemblyman" to "Assembly Member" to reflect the body's growing diversity.

During her three terms in the Assembly, Ms. Egeland Rice successfully championed important legislation to improve children's welfare, public health, and access to healthcare across the state. After leaving the State Assembly, Ms. Rice became Chief Deputy Director for the California Department of Human Services, where she established an office in Los Angeles and worked on maternal and children's health.

Ms. Egeland Rice returned to Northern California to spend time with her family in 1998. There she began working with The Doctors Company, a physician-owned insurance company. She helped lead the company's growth over the past two decades, and served as Senior Vice President of Government Relations as well as Executive Director of the company's charitable foundation. As The Doctors Company expanded beyond California, Ms. Egeland Rice developed partnerships with other state governments. Furthermore, she championed the Corporate Charitable program and implemented an Employee Charitable Gift Matching program.

Mr. Speaker, Leona Egeland Rice has served as a dedicated and influential teacher, public servant, and business leader in our community for over four decades. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Ms. Egeland Rice here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 176, 177, 178, 179, 180 and 181. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on votes 178 and 181. I would have voted Nay on votes 176, 177, 179 and 180.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN ARBOR'S
BOY SCOUT TROOP 4 IN THE
CENTENNIAL YEAR OF ITS
FOUNDING

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Arbor's Boy Scout Troop 4 in the year of its centennial. Boy Scout Troop 4 has been a pillar of the Ann Arbor community and has contributed to the well-being of south-east Michigan through its century of activism and service.

Founded in March 1917 with an original membership of ten boys and three adult leaders, Boy Scout Troop 4 has provided Ann Arbor youth with skills and experience while serving the community at large. The group expanded rapidly during the 1920s and 30s and established itself as a key part of Ann Arbor civic life. The troop has continued to build on its early success and has collectively served over 1,800 boys from Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas since its founding, including over 150 that have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Today, Troop 4 continues to remain active in Ann Arbor through projects like Scouting for Food, which provides nutrition to needy individuals, as well as staffing local events like Kerrytown Bookfest and the Saline Celtic Festival. Additionally, the troop hosts camping events and trips for scouts around the state. These initiatives equip the Boy Scouts with experience and ability to become leaders in the community.

Troop 4's long and distinguished history of service has helped create generations of civic-minded individuals who have the skills and experience that will serve them throughout their lives. Through projects like restoring the St. Helena Light Station and visits to cultural institutions like the Cranbrook Institute and the Jackson Space Institute, the leadership and members of Troop 4 have continued to build on its historic legacy and the accomplishments of its alumni. It is my hope that Troop 4 continues to serve as a model for activism and help inspire leadership and a spirit of service in the community in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ann Arbor's Boy Scout Troop 4 on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

its centennial in recognition of the troop's distinguished history. The troop has played a key role in the growth and development of the state through its service projects and cultivation of a new generation of community leaders.

TRIBUTE TO DAWN ADDIS—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman: Dawn Addis, of Morro Bay, California.

Dawn saw the need for women in San Luis Obispo County to rise together and vocalize their demand for equal rights, which led to her becoming the co-founder and co-organizer of the Women's March San Luis Obispo (SLO). Her hard work and dedication granted San Luis Obispo County residents the opportunity to participate in the single biggest one-day demonstration in our nation's history. Dawn offered her community a platform to join a larger movement and have their voices heard.

Because of Dawn's leadership, about 10,000 people marched in unity through the streets of downtown San Luis Obispo. She also ensured that the march remained peaceful and non-violent by working with the San Luis Obispo Police Chief. She worked from various community members to organize a successful, inclusive and safe event. The response from San Luis Obispo citizens about restoring their hope for the future was a testimony for the importance of Dawn's work.

Dawn's leadership empowered women from across San Luis Obispo County and allowed them to take part in a larger national conversation. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Dawn Addis, for her incredible service to her community.

MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL
OP-ED

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following op-ed I recently wrote for the Memphis Commercial Appeal:

Last year, then-candidate Donald Trump condescendingly said to African Americans, "You live in your poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs . . . What the hell do you have to lose?"

We now know the answer: a lot.

Changes at the Department of Justice (DOJ), alone, are alarming. Instead of serving its traditional role as guardian of civil rights, DOJ is in full retreat. It has reversed

course on voting rights, abandoning opposition to a Texas voter ID law in which a federal court found 600,000 registered voters did not have IDs necessary to vote.

Instead of protecting citizens from police who illegally discriminate against African Americans, Attorney General Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III has stated he does not favor the type of consent decrees used in Baltimore and Chicago to remediate conditions.

Sessions has also rolled back President Obama's efforts to phase out private prisons. African Americans not only make up a disproportionate share of the U.S. prison population, but appear more likely to be sent to private prisons, where the DOJ Inspector General has warned there are more security incidents than in public prisons.

Sessions has threatened to thwart the will of voters in states that have legalized marijuana. African Americans are three times more likely than whites are to be arrested for marijuana, despite usage being virtually the same.

The new Education Secretary thinks HBCUs, "are the real pioneers when it comes to school choice." This is ignorant of segregation that necessitated the creation of HBCUs. Betsy DeVos has an education record that does not bode well for public schools, which have provided a path for African Americans to achieve the American Dream.

The new HUD Secretary, Dr. Ben Carson, said within days of assuming office that slaves were "immigrants," a comment that bewildered many, including the NAACP. The President's recently-released budget proposal cuts \$6 billion from this agency that so many rely on.

The outlook for a minimum wage increase under this Administration is nil. The President's first pick to head the Department of Labor opposed a raise, despite there not having been one since 2009. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 35 percent of African-American workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase.

Critical programs that help the most vulnerable such as Meals on Wheels, heating and energy assistance, and nutrition aid to women and children (WIC) would be drastically cut or eliminated in the President's budget. In addition, the budget eliminates Community Development Block Grants and HOME programs that provide affordable housing for low-income residents. Legal Services Corporation, which helps those who cannot afford legal representation, and the Minority Business Development Agency, which helps promote minority-owned businesses, would be eliminated. Massive cuts to these vital programs would be devastating to Memphis.

While these cuts would have a disproportional impact on African Americans, most cuts will affect all those who are economically disadvantaged and in need of government assistance.

Republicans are also rushing a health care plan that takes from low and middle-income families and gives to the rich. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, 24 million more Americans would be uninsured by 2026 under this plan. Insurance costs for citizens over 50 years of age would increase dramatically, and financial assistance would be drastically cut for those in need. All while millionaires and billionaires receive massive tax breaks.

During Black History Month, Trump showed his ignorance of the African American experience when he suggested Frederick Douglass was alive. His cabinet is on pace to have the fewest African Americans of any administration in recent memory.

While some African Americans have enjoyed prosperity and acceptance, it is unde-

niable that African Americans still suffer from vestiges of slavery and Jim Crow. Discrimination and institutional racism have held so many back and left many in need of government relief. Over the last half century, much of America's progress has been measured by how it has dealt with its original sin of slavery. Civil rights, voting rights, advances in health care, public education, social justice and ladders of opportunity to enter the middle class have been markers by which we have judged presidential administrations. Sadly, this administration is failing on all counts.

CONGRATULATING JERRY ANDERSON FOR HIS INTRODUCTION INTO THE OHIO ASSOCIATED PRESS HALL OF FAME

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize WTOL's Emmy Award-winning anchor, Jerry Anderson, for his election to the Ohio Associated Press Hall of Fame. For more than 40 years, Jerry has served Northwest Ohio as a valued and trustworthy face on the local news, and this honor is well deserved.

In 1974, Jerry Anderson started his career in Bowling Green on the radio airwaves for WFOB. Jerry began his television news career in 1980, and he has become one of the top media members in the region. Jerry was awarded an Emmy for Outstanding News Anchor in the NATAS region in 2001.

With a career that has touched on local, regional, and national news, Jerry covered countless important events to the people of Toledo and surrounding areas. So far in his career, Jerry has brought four national political conventions, the inaugurations of three presidents, and Pope John Paul II's visit to Detroit into the living room of families in Northwest Ohio.

A proud Ohioan, Jerry should also be celebrated for support of local charitable efforts, including earning his certification as an auctioneer so he may volunteer for more than 20 charity auctions annually. Jerry also donates numerous hours as an emcee at community events to help raise funding for local schools, disadvantaged families, and individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Associated Press Hall of Fame recognizes broadcasters that have "served with exceptional distinction and honor in the field of journalism." When you think of the upstanding work he has done for over four decades, it's clear those words describe Jerry Anderson. Once again, congratulations to Jerry on this high honor.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY WEISS—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and

sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman: Nancy Weiss, of Santa Barbara, California.

After graduating from Boston University, Nancy attended the Culinary Institute with the hope of becoming one of the nation's best chefs. Soon after graduating from the Culinary Institute, she went to work for chef Gabino Sotelino. Nancy quickly became the head chef of a restaurant in Arizona, but wanted to create a place of her own. She opened an upscale pizzeria called Pop's, and two years after the opening her restaurant was featured on a PBS television special titled "Great Chefs of the West."

Now, Nancy is the Director of Food Services for the Santa Barbara School District (SBUSD), and she has revolutionized food service for our students to an incredibly high standard. She has eradicated fried foods, high fructose corn syrup, and frozen entrees from the menu to give students the healthiest choices for their daily meals. Nancy has also made an enormous mark on making public school cafeterias more environmentally friendly by banning Styrofoam trays.

Nancy is dedicated to the health of her students, and guarantees that every fruit and vegetable are sourced from local Santa Barbara farmers. Nancy has also enlisted a fleet of six food trucks to serve students at elementary schools without a cafeteria, and two preschool sites without meal programs. Nancy wants to ensure that our students can eat well during the summer months, and has expanded her responsibilities to include serving Santa Barbara's kids over school vacations.

She has gone above and beyond the call of duty and has led the way for current and future Food Service Directors. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Nancy Weiss, for her incredible service to her community.

DUNK CITY

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Florida Gulf Coast University with their return into March Madness for a second year in a row. The Eagles scored a big win against the No. 3 seed North Florida on Sunday. This is the third NCAA Tournament appearance for the Eagles since 2013.

I applaud the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles and Head Coach Dooley for their victory. There is a reason why FGCU is known as Dunk City—now go shut down more shot clocks.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND ITS IMPACT IN THE THIRTIETH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the National Endowment for the Arts was established in 1965 as an investment in our shared culture as a nation. President Lyndon Johnson at the signing ceremony for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act stated that "In the long history of man, countless empires and nations have come and gone. Those which created no lasting works of art are reduced today to short footnotes in history's catalog." I could not agree with this statement more.

Over the past five years, the NEA has provided grants totaling more than \$1.4 million to local artists and organizations within the thirtieth district of Texas. In return, these artists and organizations have shared their unique forms of expression throughout the region by creating programs focused on uniting communities around art, bringing arts awareness to underserved areas, and strengthening arts education programs in our local schools.

In his first budget request, the President has proposed to eliminate the NEA. I believe the elimination of this agency would be a grave mistake that would have a negative economic, educational, and cultural impact on countless urban and rural communities across the country.

Programs such as the Dallas City of Learning, which provides a summer education program for more than 35,000 students, would not be as successful as they are today without support from the NEA. Countless performances, exhibitions, and festivals would be affected by this disastrous policy proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose the President's budget proposal which calls for eliminating funding to the National Endowment for the Arts. We must ensure that arts programs across the country are funded so that future generations will understand the culture of our time instead of this great period being a mere footnote in history.

HONORING MILFORD "BUDDY" BOSTICK

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Milford "Buddy" Bostick of Waco, Texas, who passed away on January 4, 2017.

Buddy Bostick selflessly served our nation and Central Texas in so many ways, and he will be missed greatly.

Buddy was born on May 18, 1918 in McLennan County, Texas. He graduated from Moody High School and later attended Baylor University, where he started his journalism career as a radio announcer for WACO Radio. Here Buddy planted the seeds of what would become a successful career in media broadcasting.

Upon graduating, Buddy worked as a radio announcer in Tennessee and Arkansas before eventually returning to Texas. He served his country during World War II as part of the Army Air Corps and upon returning home he continued to pursue his goal of owning his own radio station. He would ultimately do so much more. In 1955, Buddy obtained a license to launch KWTX-TV in Waco and two years later he launched KBTX-TV in Bryan. Since their founding, these two CBS affiliates have provided news and entertainment to hundreds of thousands of families throughout Central Texas. In fact, KBTX was one of the first stations capable of color transmission, and was the first in the Brazos Valley to use color news film.

Buddy would go on to establish other television and radio stations across Texas and even into Louisiana. Then, in the 1970s he and a business partner purchased a controlling interest in the local Bellmead State Bank, changed the name to American Bank, and expanded it to a second location.

Buddy took a risk at the time when he chose to establish a television station in a town with a population of just 20,000. The media landscape in the 1950's was dominated by radio and newspapers. Yet Buddy had a vision and the desire to invest in a new form media to serve the public. In this endeavor, he was the epitome of a businessman and entrepreneur. Above all, he was a family man. He met his wife, Virginia, while attending Baylor University, and they were married for 74 years before she passed away in 2014. They are survived by their two daughters, Ellen and Martha, and ten grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Buddy was often quoted saying, "nothing lasts forever." Though I am confident that one thing will—Buddy Bostick's legacy will have an impact for generations to come.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the entire Bostick family. We also lift up the family and friends of Buddy in our prayers.

As I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women, who protect us abroad, and for our first responders, who protect us here at home.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE CURTIS—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman: Suzanne Curtis, of San Luis Obispo, California.

Suzanne is one of the quiet heroes of her community by selflessly contributing her time and resources over several years to the local American Red Cross and victims of fires. She is a Volunteer Coordinator of the San Luis

Obispo chapter of the American Red Cross, and is tirelessly working to aid victims of natural disasters. Last year, San Luis Obispo County faced a devastating fire that consumed nearly 4,000 acres and forced residents to evacuate their homes. During the Chimney Fire, Suzanne was instrumental to securing people shelter and ensuring and assisting in their recovery from the disaster.

She continues to help natural disaster victims by serving as the local Red Cross Disaster Action Team dispatcher. In this capacity, she aids community members affected by house fires, earthquakes, and flooding. Her dedication to San Luis Obispo County's disaster victims is volunteered, and Suzanne gives most of her free time to working on behalf of others and protecting her fellow community members' safety.

As a retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer, Suzanne continues to be a passionate supporter of our troops and local veterans. She is always willing to extend a helping hand to those who need it. She set up a scholarship specifically for women veterans at Cuesta College, which is the sole funding available for them.

Suzanne has been a champion for natural disaster victims and selflessly works for those who need it most. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Suzanne Curtis, for her incredible service to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF HENRI
LANDWIRTH, FOUNDER OF DIG-
NITY U WEAR

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an extraordinary leader, Mr. Henri Landwirth, for the incredible impact he has had on countless individuals not only in Jacksonville but also across the country.

Born March 7, 1927, in Belgium, Henri Landwirth, along with his family, was arrested for being Jewish. He spent five years in a concentration camp and survived the Holocaust. At 18, Henri immigrated to the United States with only a Torah and a little money. Soon after his arrival, he joined the United States Army and served during the Korean War.

Following his military service, Landwirth used his G.I. benefits to take a course in hotel management and began work in a New York City hotel. He used every opportunity to work hard and advance through every job in the business and eventually moved to Florida to own his own hotel.

He enjoyed a successful career in the hotel industry and became a philanthropist starting the Fanny Landwirth Foundation in 1985 in memory of his mother. The mission of the Fanny Landwirth Foundation is "to enrich, educate and empower underserved children and families" by supporting basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and education.

A trip to Jacksonville's Sulzbacher Center for the homeless and his memory of having no clothes when he was incarcerated at Ausch-

witz led him to found Dignity U Wear, which to date has provided over 9 million pieces of clothing valued at over \$160 million to those in need.

Henri once said, "From the darkness of concentration camps grew many compassionate courageous and generous souls." Henri Landwirth's vision to become a courageous and generous soul has been proven true in the thousands of people he's helped over the years. His unwavering commitment and dedication to his community is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Henri Landwirth for his strong leadership and unyielding commitment to philanthropy and our community.

VETERANS 2ND AMENDMENT
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters from the National Disabilities Rights Network and the National Rifle Association in support of H.R. 1181:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, March 7, 2017.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: I am pleased to write on behalf of the National Rifle Association in support of H.R. 1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act."

This bill would address an ongoing problem over the past 12 years in which veterans and veterans' family members for whom fiduciaries have been appointed by the Department of Veterans Affairs are deemed to have been "adjudicated as . . . mental defective[s]" and prohibited from possessing or receiving firearms. Such an appointment is not necessarily based on any finding that the veteran is a danger to himself or herself or to others.

Fortunately, the NICS Improvement Amendment Act of 2007 provided these individuals with the opportunity to seek relief from that legal disability. However, your bill goes one step further in protecting the rights of veterans and family members, by ensuring that no VA proceeding going forward will prevent a person from exercising his or her Second Amendment rights unless a judicial authority has found that the person's mental incapacity or disorder actually makes him or her dangerous.

We wish you success in moving forward with this important protection for the rights of those who have served our country. Please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

JASON M. QUIMET,
Director of Federal Affairs.

NATIONAL DISABILITY

RIGHTS NETWORK,

Washington, DC, March 17, 2017.

Re National Disability Rights Network letter of support for H.R. 1181, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act

HON. PHIL ROE,
Chairman, House Veterans' Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) writes in support of H.R. 1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act". We appreciate your strong advocacy on this important topic.

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the non-profit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) systems for individuals with disabilities. The P&As and CAPs were established by the United States Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. P&As and CAPs are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands), and there is a P&A and CAP affiliated with the Native American Consortium which includes the Hopi, Navaho and San Juan Southern Paiute Nations in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Collectively, the P&A and CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

H.R. 1181 prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs, from considering a veteran to be adjudicated as "mentally defective" for purposes of the right to receive or transport firearms without the order or finding of a judicial authority that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others. We oppose the reporting of names without full adjudication for a number of reasons, including:

The damaging message of a policy that focuses on reporting individuals who, for example, receive assistance in managing their benefits to the NICS gun database. The current public dialogue is replete with inaccurate stereotyping of people with mental disabilities as violent and dangerous, and there is a real concern that the VA policy will reinforce those unfounded assumptions.

The absence of any data suggesting that there is any connection between a beneficiary who is assisted by a fiduciary and a propensity toward gun violence.

The absence of any meaningful due process protections by not requiring an adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction. Although the NICS Improvements Act of 2007 allows agencies to transmit the names of individuals who have been "adjudicated" to lack the capacity to manage their own affairs, VA's process does not, without a decision of a judicial authority, constitute an adjudication. Veterans should not lose the Constitutional rights they have fought to protect and defend without proper due process.

We urge Congress to act, through passing H.R. 1181, to prevent the damage the current VA practice to report names of veterans with disabilities to the NICS background check system without proper adjudication is causing on veterans with disabilities.

Please contact Amanda Lowe, Senior Public Policy Analyst with any questions.

Sincerely,

CURT DECKER,
Executive Director.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I voted, I would have voted "no" on passage of H.R. 1259, the VA Accountability First Act of 2017 (Roll Call No. 168). This bill contains provisions that infringe on the collective bargaining and due process rights of Veterans Affairs' employees. Should this legislation become public law, it would have a damaging effect on patient care and VA recruitment, limiting the agency's efficiency.

IN SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION OF
WORLD WATER DAY**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, every year on March 22nd we recognize World Water Day. It highlights drinking water is a basic right denied to many.

According to the United Nations fact sheet for World Water Day of 2017, a source of drinking water contaminated with feces, which puts them at risk of contracting cholera, dysentery, typhoid and polio. Unsafe water, poor sanitation and 842,000 deaths each year." This is a reality for people around the world including here in the United States.

Flint, Michigan has been without clean drinking water for almost two years. There were high levels of lead in the water supply which is contributing to a growing number of chronic illnesses in the region. It was not until this month that the EPA awarded funds to repair the pipe system in the city of Flint to hopefully decrease the amounts of lead. Unfortunately, Flint is not the only city struggling in this capacity. Last year, Reuters published an article that announced thousands of other cities had dangerous levels of lead in their water systems. This is an unacceptable reality that cannot remain ignored. The health of Americans, especially children and the elderly will remain at risk daily if this problem remains unchecked.

Under Trump's new executive order, "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule," rolls back the landmark environmental rule that allows the government to limit the amount of pollution that enters into our streams, rivers, and wetlands. Originally the rule protected 60 percent of water sources in the U.S.; however, under this administration, whose primary concern seems to be protecting big business and corporations, these water sources are at risk.

As Members of Congress, we must take steps to protect our water supply as a matter of public health. We need to address the situations in cities where lives are in danger due to contaminated water, both in the U.S. and around the world.

REGARDING THE LIFE OF JESSE
O. ADCOCK**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Jesse O. Adcock who passed away this past Thursday, March 16, 2017. Mr. Adcock was born on March 8, 1924 in Neshoba County, MS, in the Arlington Community.

During World War II Mr. Adcock joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, and was assigned to the Eighth Air Force. While there he flew 35 missions in the B-17 and was awarded the Purple Heart and other distinguished decorations for his heroic service. He also served in the Berlin Airlift prior to retiring from the Air Force in 1967.

Mr. Adcock returned home to Mississippi and entered the real estate business in Biloxi. He became involved in several business and civic associations including the Mississippi Realtors Association, Biloxi Businessman's Club and the Gulf Coast Apartment Association. He built and owned several apartment complexes, and the successful business he started over 50 years ago continues to operate today.

Mr. Adcock was very involved with politics and government at all levels and was appointed to serve on the Mississippi Medicaid Commission by Governor William Waller. He later served as the commission's chairman.

Mr. Adcock was not only interested in serving his state, but his faith community as well. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Biloxi and served in various leadership positions until moving to Hattiesburg in 1994, where he became an active member of Venture Church.

Mr. Adcock's service to his nation, state and community will always be remembered and I am proud to recognize his life of service before the United States Congress.

RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is no secret that hate and racism are very much still alive today. Society is often racist and prejudiced against minority individuals, because of the color of their skin or where they come from. Men and women are denied jobs, migrant status, or even killed because of racial discrimination. The Southern Poverty Law Center's Hate Group Map indicates that the number of hate groups has grown for two years in a row. The SPLC map also demonstrates that currently there are more than 900 organizations in existence whose primary purpose is to drive a narrative of hate, discrimination, and intimidation. Additionally, a Pew research study showed racial tensions are perceived to have worsened by 38 percent of people since President Obama's first term. The same study indicated that African-Americans are about twice as likely as whites to feel that it is in fact discrimination that is preventing the success of Black Americans. The FBI's 2016 hate crime report reveals that hate crimes against Muslims grew by 67 percent in just one year.

This administration's rhetoric has encouraged behavior that is aggressive and intolerant. This is not reflective of America and our values. We must be diligent in our efforts to minimize and eliminate racial discrimination from all facets of society and our political narrative.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 27

12 noon

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Rod J. Rosenstein, of Maryland, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine fostering economic growth, focusing on the role of financial companies.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the United States' increasing dependence on foreign sources of minerals and opportunities to rebuild and improve the supply chain in the United States.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting young athletes from sexual abuse.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the view from Congress, focusing on United States policy on Iran.

SD-419

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Energy

To hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity threats to the United States electric grid and technology advancements to minimize such threats, including S. 79, to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to identify security vulnerabilities of certain entities in the energy sector.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense worldwide policy and strategy and the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Supplemental Budget Request.

SVC-217

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine S. 518, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for technical assistance for small treatment works, S. 675, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship, and an original bill entitled, "Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act of 2017".

SD-406

MARCH 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine closing the skills gap and boosting United States competitiveness.

SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine cleaning up our nation's Cold War legacy sites.

SD-406

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues

To hold hearings to examine United States-Mexico relationship, focusing on advancing security and prosperity on both sides of the border.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine a review of the defense health program and military medicine funding.

SD-192

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the health of the Department of Defense industrial base, and its role in providing readiness to the warfighter.

SR-232A

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy

To hold hearings to examine American leadership in the Asia-Pacific, focusing on security issues.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

To hold hearings to examine civil society perspectives on Russia.

SD-192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management

To hold hearings to examine the effect of borrowing on Federal spending.

SD-342

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine native youth, focusing on promoting

diabetes prevention through healthy living.

SD-628

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the arc of Alzheimer's, focusing on preventing cognitive decline in Americans to assuring quality care for those living with the disease.

SD-106

3 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine how small businesses confront and shape regulations.

SR-428A

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Air Force modernization.

SR-222

MARCH 30

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the potential for infrastructure improvements to create jobs and reduce the cost of living through all-of-the-above energy and mineral production in Alaska.

SD-366

APRIL 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States Southern Command and United States Northern Command.

SD-G50